Stop brainwashing our kids on climate change

The Vancouver Province (British Columbia)

June 15, 2011 Wednesday

Final Edition

Copyright 2011 The Vancouver Province, a division of CanWest MediaWorks Publication Inc. All Rights Reserved

Section: NEWS; Pg. A18; Metro View

Length: 551 words

Byline: Jon Ferry, The Province

Body

I wasn't surprised to learn that the Vancouver School Board says it needs vastly increased funding to pay for "essential" school maintenance. It's made a habit of complaining about funding shortages, only to acknowledge later that the world is, in fact, not coming to an end.

So, of course, has the B.C. Teachers Federation. Its answer to every educational problem is more public spending, especially on teachers.

But the fact is our $7-billion-a-year education system (spread over two ministries) doesn't need any more taxpayer cash. What it does need is to save money by teaching our children basic critical-thinking skills . . . and stop trying to brainwash them.

Brainwashing? Yes, I'm talking about the constant stream of global-warming propaganda that B.C. kids of all ages are subjected to, right on up through university. The amount spent on this indoctrination is mind-blowing.

Only last month, the Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions, a think-tank involving B.C.'s four main research universities announced $1.8 million in funding for 27 new climate-change research projects. It's now hosting a two-day "forum" at Vancouver's Wosk Centre on "Resilient Communities: Preparing for the Climate Challenge."

I use the word "think-tank" loosely, of course, because the institute -started up three years ago with $95 million from Victoria -appears to adhere slavishly to the scientific "consensus" that humans are mainly to blame for climate change, a theory increasingly challenged by thinking people.

Indeed, its promotional blurb about "transformative change" bolsters my belief that, in our schools and universities, we've simply managed to replace one religion, namely Christianity, with another, namely Earth worship.

It's a religion fuelled by the easy availability of research grants and based on the absurd notion that climate-change science is settled.

And it brooks no dissent, as University of Victoria global-warming guru Andrew Weaver made clear the other day.

In a Vancouver Sun interview, the high-profile climate modeller concluded Ottawa wasn't interested in acting decisively to reduce greenhouse gas emissions -and it was time to concentrate on Canada's youth, the leaders of tomorrow.

"I'm fed up speaking with the stereotypical angry, retired, grey-haired engineer," Weaver was quoted as saying. "They're stuck in their ways and think everything can be fixed and that this is not a big problem."

Certainly, veteran engineers may be harder to convince of "the truth" than malleable kids. But what about the stereotypical angry, ageist climate scientist out to save the planet? Aren't they equally fixed in their thinking?

And isn't their political activism a big problem for those who are forced to pay for them to "play in their ivorytower sandboxes," to quote independent-minded U.S. climatologist Roy Spencer?

In England, where climate-change fever is cooling fast, the government adviser in charge of overhauling the national curriculum (for five-to 16-yearolds) now wants it to put more emphasis on core science and less on "issues" such as climate change.

B.C.'s education system should do likewise. It should stop trying to turn our kids into eco-acolytes -and start encouraging them to think for themselves. At the very least, it might save us all a load of money.

jferry@theprovince.com

Load-Date: June 15, 2011

End of Document